

Undeserving and Ordinary, but Chosen and Loved by God

Group Discussion Questions:

1. Even though you were undeserving, how and when did Jesus choose you? (Each person can take a couple minutes to share, obviously we all have a testimony that we could spend 15-20 minutes sharing, but try and be brief.)
2. Who are some other ordinary people in the Bible that were greatly used by an extraordinary God? What would have happened if they, or the other examples in the lesson, had said no to God?
3. As Piper said, "Your call and ministry must always stand in the shadow of the cross. The only fruit that will last is the fruit that grows on the cross." Talk about what that means. What is your ministry or sphere of influence? Are you producing fruit that grows on the cross? Do you have ministry outside of your family? Is it bearing fruit?
4. How are you allowing the Potter to mold you? Are you malleable –compliant, acquiescent, soft, flexible, bendy and pliable – in God's hands? Do you believe an extraordinary God can use you "to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think"?

Weekly Application:

1. Read Romans 5:8, Ephesians 2:4 and Colossians 2:13. Think about what these verses mean to you personally. Spend a few minutes in your quiet time reflecting on how God drew you to His Son and praise Him for your salvation.
2. Choose a Bible character and write out how they were ordinary, and then write what God accomplished through them. (Some good examples: Joseph, Joshua, Hannah, Samuel, Daniel, Mary – Jesus' mother, Paul, or choose your own.)
3. Read John 15:1-11 several times this week, maybe once every day. Think about how your fruit bearing is directly related to the extent that you, the branch, are abiding in Jesus, the vine. Pray that God would show you where you need to be pruned, what you need to do (or stop doing) to abide more in the vine, if you are bearing fruit that glorifies God and proves you are Christ's disciple.
4. Read over the list of 10 things you have because you are loved by God. Pick one of the verses and meditate and dwell on the truth of this scripture for the day.
5. Write out Ephesians 3:20 in your favorite version and put it in a prominent place. Ask God to help you apply this verse to yourself and your own ministry. Pray that the Holy Spirit would convict you, if there is an area where you need to minister, or where an extraordinary God could use you.